

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Prior to this amendment, Claims 1-7 were pending in the application. Please cancel Claims 2 and 6 without prejudice. Please amend Claims 1, 4 and 7 as set forth herein. No new matter has been added.

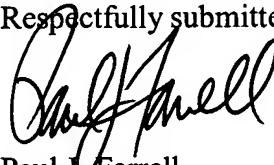
It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has withdrawn his Drawings objections and his rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 made in the Office Action dated November 25, 2005. It is also gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has objected to Claims 2 and 6 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would allow Claims 2 and 6 if rewritten in independent form. Claims 2 and 6 were objected to in the Allowable Subject Matter section, but were included the §103(a) rejection as well. It is noted that Applicant's representative, Ryan C. Carter, Esq., spoke with the Examiner by telephone on March 22, 2006 regarding this contradiction, and the Examiner verified that the inclusion of Claims 2 and 6 in the §103(a) rejection was a mistake, and that Claims 2 and 6 in fact are objected to, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 3-5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hayashida et al.* (US 2004/0198457) (hereinafter *Hayashida*) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,023,620 to *Hansson* and U.S. Patent No. 5,588,105 to *Foster et al.* (hereinafter *Foster*). As previously indicated, the Examiner found allowable subject matter in Claims 2 and 6. The claim amendments to Claims 1 and 4 reflect the inclusion of the recitations in respective Claims 2 and 6, now cancelled. Claim 7 is amended in the fashion of Claim 4, so as to include the recitations from Claim 6, now cancelled. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the amendments obviate the §103(a) rejection of Claims 1, 3-5 and 7. Withdrawal of the same is respectfully requested.

Independent Claims 1, 4 and 7 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Without conceding the patentability per se of dependent Claims 3 and 5, these are likewise believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on their respective amended independent claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of dependent Claims 3 and 5 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1, 3-5 and 7, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicant's attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Farrell", is written over the typed name.

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